CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method usable with a computer, comprising:

in response to the computer being in a predetermined sleep state, coupling a load to conduct current from a supply voltage plane of the computer to ground to prevent a back-driven voltage on the supply voltage plane, the supply voltage plane not receiving power from a power resource of the computer in response to the predetermined sleep state; and

in response to the computer being in a predetermined state other than the predetermined sleep state, decoupling the load so that the load does not conduct current from the supply voltage plane to ground.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined state other than the predetermined sleep state comprises a higher power state than the predetermined sleep state.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined state other than the predetermined sleep state comprises another sleep state.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined sleep state comprises a state within a range of predetermined sleep states.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the range of predetermined sleep states comprises the lowest power sleep states of the computer.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the coupling controls a voltage level on the supply voltage plane produced by a powered peripheral.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the coupling comprises activating a switch to establish a current path between the supply voltage plane and ground.

8. (Currently Amended)) The method of claim 1, wherein the decoupling comprises deactivating a switch to remove a current path between the supply voltage plane and ground.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

in response to the computer being in said predetermined state other than the predetermined sleep state, coupling the power resource to the supply voltage plane.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the power resource comprises a voltage regulator to furnish power to the supply voltage plane in response to the computer being in said predetermined state other than the predetermined sleep state.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer comprising:

a supply voltage plane;

a power resource to provide power to the supply voltage plane;

a load; and

a circuit to:

in response to the computer being in a predetermined sleep state, couple the load to conduct current from a supply voltage plane of the computer to ground to prevent a back-driven voltage on the supply voltage plane, the supply voltage plane not receiving power from the power resource in response to the predetermined sleep state, and

in response to the computer being in a predetermined state other than the predetermined sleep state, decouple the load so that the load does not conduct current from the supply voltage plane to ground.

12. (Original) The computer of claim 11, wherein the circuit comprises:

a switch.

13. (Original) The computer of claim 11, wherein said predetermined state other than the predetermined sleep state comprises a higher power state than the predetermined sleep state.

14. (Original) The computer of claim 11, wherein said predetermined state other than the predetermined sleep state comprises another sleep state.

15. (Original) The computer of claim 11, wherein said predetermined sleep state comprises a state within a range of predetermined sleep states.

16. (Original) The computer of claim 15, wherein the range of predetermined sleep states comprises the lowest power sleep states of the computer.

17. (Original) The computer of claim 11, wherein the circuit couples the load to conduct current to control a voltage level on the supply voltage plane produced by a powered peripheral to the computer.

18. (Original) The computer of claim 11, wherein the power resource comprises a voltage regulator to furnish power to the supply voltage plane in response to the computer being in said predetermined state other than the predetermined sleep state.

19. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a computer comprising:

a supply voltage plane;

a power resource to provide power to the supply voltage plane;

a load; and

a circuit to:

in response to the computer being in a predetermined sleep state, couple the load to conduct current from a supply voltage plane of the computer to ground to prevent a back-driven voltage on the supply voltage plane, the supply voltage plane not receiving power from the power resource in response to the predetermined sleep state, and

in response to the computer being in a predetermined state other than the predetermined sleep state, decouple the load so that the load does not conduct current from the supply voltage supply plane to ground; and

a powered peripheral coupled to the computer and capable of producing a back-driven voltage on the supply voltage plane.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the circuit comprises:

a switch.

21. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein said predetermined state other than the predetermined sleep state comprises a higher power state than the predetermined sleep state.

22. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein said predetermined state other than the predetermined sleep state comprises another sleep state.

23. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein said predetermined sleep state comprises a state within a range of predetermined sleep states.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~19~~ 23, wherein the range of predetermined sleep states comprises the lowest power sleep states of the computer.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~24~~ 19, wherein the circuit couples the load to conduct current to control a level of the voltage produced by the powered peripheral.

26. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the power resource comprises a voltage regulator.

27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the coupling comprises:

substantially grounding the supply voltage plane in response to the predetermined sleep state.

28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the coupling comprises:

establishing a resistance in a range of approximately one to ten ohms between the supply voltage plane and ground in response to the predetermined sleep state.

29. (New) The computer of claim 11, wherein the circuit, in response to the computer being in the predetermined sleep state, substantially grounds the supply voltage plane.

30. (New) The computer of claim 11, wherein the circuit, in response to the computer being in the predetermined sleep, state establishes a resistance between the supply voltage plane and ground in a range of approximately one to ten ohms.

31. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the circuit, in response to the computer being in the predetermined sleep state, substantially grounds the supply voltage plane.

32. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the circuit, in response to the computer being in the predetermined sleep, state establishes a resistance between the supply voltage plane and ground in a range of approximately one to ten ohms.